

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 33 with the following Replacement Paragraph.

~~A process for managing~~ Management of financial transactions involves defining the process as a series information transfers ~~of steps that involve the transfer of~~ information needed by each parties~~[[y]]~~ to settle the transaction. A system ~~for~~ measuring the performance of participants in the management process, tracks the information transferred between the parties and records a ~~the date and time that~~ the information is transferred. ~~Periodically, [[i]]~~ Information including ~~the date and time~~ information is ~~processed and~~ used to determine measures of performance ~~over the period~~. These measures of performance can include the amount of time between the completion of any ~~of the~~ steps in the management process, e.g., ~~for example,~~ from the time when transaction was initiated (e.g. a trade is executed) to the time the information to be transmitted to or received by any of the participants to the management process or the management system in any of the steps of the management process. The performance information can be compiled into predefined reports which allow a party to compare and ~~rank~~ the performance of counterparties with which the party had completed transactions.